



Alaska Board of Massage Therapists – June 5, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Time: June 5, 2025, 9:00 AM Alaska

Attendance

Board Members:

Annetta Atwell, Licensed Massage Therapist

Emily Foster, Licensed Massage Therapist

Michelle Steiner, Licensed Massage Therapist,

DCBPL State of Alaska Staff:

David Edwards-Smith, Occupational Licensing Examiner (OLE)

Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator II

Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator

Roger Rouse, Investigator

Public Attendance: Seth Dinkel- Government Relations, Mai Lin Petrine , directory of legal and regulatory affairs, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, (FSMTB), Elise Baine.

1. Roll Call - 9:05 AM

Board Members Present: Annetta Atwell, Emily Foster, Michelle Steiner

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Chair Atwell asked the board to present amendments to the agenda. None were presented.

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as written.

Chair Atwell reviewed the mission statement with the board and invited a discussion. The board's consensus was that the mission statement reflects the current mission of the board and did not require any amendment.

Alaska Board of Massage Therapists - Mission Statement

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans by ensuring that licensed massage therapists possess and maintain a level of skill and knowledge necessary to provide safe, competent and professional massage therapy services to consumers and to protect the public from massage therapists who pose a risk to the public's health, safety, and welfare.

3. Ethics Review/Disclosure

Chair Atwell requested the board to disclose any ethics reports for the record. No disclosures were presented.

4. Strategic Planning

Chair Atwell reviewed the framework of the strategic plan and encouraged the board to work to develop a strategic format for the transparency and productivity of the board.

5. Public Comment 9:32 AM

OLE Edwards-Smith informed Chair Atwell that there was no one scheduled for public comment. Chair Atwell asked for public comment to remain open to give the public an opportunity to log into the meeting.

Public Comment Closed at 9:53

6. Administrative Business

- March, Meeting Minutes:

Chair Atwell directed the board to present any amendments to the March Board Meeting Minutes. No amendments were presented.

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with an unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the agenda as written.

- Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards – Executive Summit 2025 Report

9:20 OLE Edwards-Smith spoke reported that the 2025 executive summit was productive in providing important information related to the board's work on developing apprenticeship model regulations. The member states that participated in a workshop about apprenticeship massage therapy education programs developed a consensus that apprenticeship models are problematic for the massage therapy profession. Discussion focused on the difficulties of implementing a health care apprenticeship education model where apprenticeship models are traditionally non-health care trade fields. Education and public safety concerns of unlicensed health care treatments with the public was a thematic concern as member states discussed the issue.

Three member states, which include the State of Alaska have statutory obligations to make apprenticeship programs available to the public. The State of Alaska presented the current draft regulatory framework for discussion. This framework was well received and served as a strong model in providing access to apprenticeship education opportunities that meet the mandate of ensuring public safety.

Chair Atwell spoke to her attendance of FSMTB discussion about apprenticeship programs. Annetta informed the board that the consensus of the member states involved in this discussion was that the massage therapy was not determined to be appropriate in massage.

- Review of Light Therapy and Dolphin Direct Current Devices

Dolphine estim – Emily

Emily Foster researched the question of whether estim and dolphin devices were to be accepted as continued education. In her research she found that it was very difficult to determine the specific regulatory position of other states in the matter of devices.

Emily described the dolphin tool as a tool that is being used with the hands therefore it is different from other electrical stimulation tools. She expressed interest in amending the current MAS unacceptable CEU list to allow for this device. Chair Atwell noted that the continued education course that Emily references was not specifically focused on the dolphin devices. The dolphin devices were a feature that was introduced. Participants were instructed to check with the State Boards to determine if the device falls within the legal scope of practice. Chair Atwell expressed concerns of protection of therapists from litigation of this tool which is an electrical device that falls within the scope of licensed physical therapists. Michele did not think that this tool was within the scope of practice of a massage therapist.

with the discussion Emily determined that it was not appropriate to amend the unacceptable list. The board arrived at this consensus.

The board's consensus was to not update the unacceptable continued education list to include dolphin and estim devices to be acceptable.

Break at 9:53 On Record at 10:00

Roll Call: Annetta Atwell, Michelle Steiner, Emily Foster

7. Consent Agreement Review

Paralegal II Kim Lily joins the meeting at 10:29

In a motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with unanimous roll call vote, it was **RESOLVED** to enter **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff is intended to attend executive session.

Off Record at 10:30 On Record at 10:45

Roll Call: Annetta Atwell, Michelle Steiner Emily Foster

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with a roll call vote; it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the **CONSENT AGREEMENT** for Nicole Marden Case: 2024-000756.

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with a roll call vote; it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the **CONSENT AGREEMENT** for Marilyn Hoffman Case: 2024-000755.

7. Investigations

enior Investigator Jenni Summers and Investigator Roger Rouse Joins the Meeting at 10:48

- Investigative Report

Roger Rouse presented the investigative report. There are 17 open cases and 13 closed cases. There were no questions from the board.

8. Annual Report 2025

Chair Atwell directed the board to review the 2025 Annual Report and present amendments to the report. No amendments were presented.

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner, and passed with unanimous roll call vote; it was RESOLVED to APPROVE the 2025 Board of Massage Therapist Annual Report.

9. Governors Executive Orders Related to Regulation Projects and Travel.

Chair Atwell reviewed the executive orders with the board. Discussion of travel resulted in the board's understanding that the State of Alaska will not be attending this year's FSMTB annual meeting. The board will continue to draft apprenticeship regulations. The board understands that regulations projects cannot be initiated at this time.

10. Credential Applications Approved States

Discussion of updates to the board's acceptance of states with licensing requirements substantially equivalent to the State of Alaska.

The board reviewed the current list of state licensing requirements provided by the FSMTB. Chair Atwell delegated Michelle and Emily to review the state list to determine licensing requirements.

The board arrived at a consensus that 600 hours was substantially equivalent to State of Alaska standards.

BREAK Off Record at 11:22 On Record at 11:32

11. Practical Application Discussion

The board reviewed the current regulation of the transcript hours of the massage therapy program. "Practical application" means a hands-on application of various clinical modalities dedicated to the practice of massage therapy. Chair Atwell would like the board to develop more clarity on this subject.

12. Service Member Civil Relief Act (SRCA) Military Application Approval

The board determined that it was in the best interest of the applicant not to delay application processing with a scheduled board application review. The application requirements do not require a board review of transcripts or exam results. The board discussed the DCBPL delegation of licensing issuance for SCRA applications.

A motion made by Michelle Steiner, seconded by Emily Foster, and passed with a roll call vote; it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Federal Servicemember Civil Relief Act applications approval authority are to be delegated to the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

13. Board of Massage Therapists Strategic Plan

Chair Atwell directed the board to include the following as strategic plan goals:

Practical Application **12 AAC 79.140**

Apprenticeship Program and Mentorship Requirements.

Apprenticeship reciprocity approval.

Licensing Application Requirements. Photo documentation.

12. Statute Review and Amendment Recommendations

Chair Atwell discussed a means of amending the current statute related to application by examination to improve access to licensure to applicants who attended schools before 2017 that were under 625 hours. Chair Atwell pointed out that these applicants may have experience and continued education documentation that provides evidence of competency that is substantially equivalent to the entry level education of 625 hours. Currently, statutes do not enable an applicant's eligible relies on the documentation of 625 hours of education from an approved massage school.

The board arrived at a census that they would like to pursue this statutory amendment. A subcommittee of members Emily Foster and Michelle Steiner was established for the research and development of the project of a statutory amendment recommendation to the legislature.

Off Record at 10:30 On Record at 10:45

9. Apprentice Program Approval Review

The board briefly discussed the currently working apprentice model draft regulation. The board focused on the appropriate length of time of an apprenticeship model. **The board reached a consensus that an apprenticeship model is not to be of a duration less than 12 months and no longer than 36 months.**

A motion made by Emily Foster, seconded by Michelle Steiner to Adjourn at 1:28PM